

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 PA-01 /078 W
-----043063 101730Z /40

R 092237Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7562
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
DEAHQ WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1491

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT POVEDA COMMENTS ON GOE NARCOTICS EFFORT

1. DURING A CONVERSATION MARCH 8 WITH SUPREME COUNCIL PRESIDENT POVEDA ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, CHARGE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS EFFORT IN THE CONTEXT OF UPCOMING VISIT BY SENIOR ADVISOR FALCO AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO. POVEDA NOTED THAT HE CHAIRS THE GOE'S DOMESTIC COUNCIL AND THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW WITH GREAT INTEREST EFFORTS BY THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT THE DRUG TRAFFIC. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ECUADOR DOES NOT HAVE THE PROBLEM WITH MAJOR TRAFFICKING THAT AFFLICTS COLOMBIA AND SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, THE PROBLEM WAS GETTING WORSE AND THE GOE WOULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE USG WAR ON DRUGS. HE CITED AS EVIDENCE OF THE GOE COMMITMENT THE RECENT JUDICIAL REORGANIZATION (SEE QUITO 0201) WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS UNDERTAKEN LARGELY TO WEED OUT CORRUPT JUDGES, ALLEGING THAT SOME 14 JUDGES WERE DISMISSED SPECIFICALLY FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMENT: CHARGE HAD RAISED SUBJECT PRIMARILY TO INFORM POVEDA OF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FALCO AND ARELLANO.
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WITH SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER GENERAL DURAN AND MINGOV JARRIN. POVEDA'S FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON THE DRUG EFFORT WERE LARGELY SPONTANEOUS AND ARE WORTHWHILE NOTING AS IT IS UNLIKE POVEDA TO WAX ELOQUENT ON THIS SUBJECT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT EFFORTS TO IMPRESS THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOE OF USG CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE HAVING SOME EFFORT.

CORR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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